



High Street, Castle Camps

Castle Camps Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

1898 08 30

Castle Camps sale Cock, p2 *

1899 05 08

Castle Camps fire, p3 *

1900 10 12

Sir W. Cuthbert-Quilter MP was announced to speak at Castle Camps and, a noisy meeting being anticipated, a policeman was stationed at the entrance so as to allow only electors into the building. On arrival he was received with loud hissing and booing. He said: 'I have come 100 miles today to see you'. (Hissing and 'Go back another hundred'). He attempted to address the meeting, but being frequently interrupted asked 'Will you hear me? A voice: 'We have heard such a lot of rubbish, we want to hear some plain truth now'. 'You will get that from me'. 'You will be the first one who has told the truth then'

1906 06 29

Charles Mynott told the court he had gone on the shooting gallery at Castle Camps fair and paid for four shots, one did not go off and he accused the stallholder of trying to 'dish' him out of it. The man struck him in the mouth, knocked him down between two stalls then took a rifle in each hand and fired into the crowd of about 70 people. The stalls then fell over and the whole show wrecked. He did not see if the man took aim as he was on the floor. 06 06 29

1908 02 07

The Ram beerhouse, Balsham, had existed previous to 1869, justices heard. There was a taproom, bar, kitchen, living-room and grocer's shop as well as four bedrooms. The back staircase and the stable roof was in bad repair. The tenant did a trade of about a dozen barrels of beer and six dozen bottled ale and stout a week. The population was 780 and there were five other fully-licensed pubs and three beer houses including the Five Ales. The licence was temporarily renewed. also Cherry Tree, Sawston Chequers, Shudy Camps, Bell at Balsham, George & Dragon, Castle Camps, White Hart, Linton. 08 02 07

1908 02 22

Castle Camps had an unnecessary number of licensed houses, Magistrates were told. The population of the village was 713 and there were eight licensed houses, being one to each 89 persons. There was only 85 yards between the George and the Cock Inns at Castle Camps and the latter, which was fully licensed, did much more trade. The George should be closed, even the tenant said there was not a living at the house. The magistrates renewed the licence and referred it to the Compensation Committee. 08 02 22

1908 07 10

The Castle Inn, a roadside beerhouse at Castle Camps together with a bakehouse and some cottages was sold by auction for £390. 'Apple Tree Cottage' in the centre of the village made £120 but 'Moat Farm House' pleasantly situated by the roadside at Ridgewell comprising a red brick and plastered dwelling with an acre of ground was withdrawn at £495. CWN 08 07 10 p2

1908 07 31

Twenty-six licensed houses are to close, magistrates decided. They include the Robin Hood at Litlington, Chesterton Long Reach, Swaffham Prior's Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Three Jolly Watermen in Waterbeach Fen. But the Fox in the Wood at Soham and the Cock at Isleham were spared after Police Superintendent Winter failed to appear to give evidence. The licence of the Black Horse at Over was renewed after the Star Brewery appealed. also Barrington Boot & Shoe, Bassingbourn Yew Tree, Steeple Morden Lion, Swaffham Prior John Bull, Bottisham Rose & Crown, Cottenham Six Bells, Oakington Lion and Lamb, Stapleford Hammer & Anvil, Swavesey Chequers, Willingham Little Rose, Castle Camps George, Balsham Ram, Linton White Hart, Cambridge

Yorkshire Grey, Old Red Lion, Nine Pines, Thatched House, Baker's Arms, Red Lion, Brewery Tap & Carpenters' Arms. CWN 08 07 31

1910

1910 02 18

Castle Camps election row sequel – 10 02 18g & h

1911 03 31

A lantern lecture organised by the Tariff Reform League at Castle Camps schoolroom was brought to a standstill by children who formed three-parts of the audience. When the speeches began they burst into the singing of the 'Land song'. They were eventually persuaded to be quiet but found something to knock about at the end of the room. Then one started coughing and the rest followed suit. Stamping was the next form of amusement and a number of adults joined in. At last the lecturer refused to go on. 11 03 31 & a

1912 09 29

His Majesty the King visited the Hardwick aero camp where he spoke to Colonel S.F. Cody, and inspected his famous biplane. He showed much interest in the position of the propeller, which is behind the pilot and not in front, as in the other biplanes at the camp. The King then commanded Col Cody to make a short exhibition flight. In a few seconds the plane was in the air, making several circuits, flying both high and low before pulling up gracefully within a few yards of the Royal party. The King then inspected the naval biplanes before leaving. Shortly afterwards Mr de Havilland arrived in a biplane from the 'seat of war' – the manoeuvres around Linton 12 09 20e also 20d, photos 20f, g. Airmen's triumph, Mutlow Hill taken etc – 20h; fighting Horseheath – 20i, Castle Camps – 20j, airship 20k 20l 20n

1913 04 04

The Congregational Union heard that. West Wratting chapel had been renovated and a new hall built at Cheveley but the chapel at Reach, built in 1863, needed to be put in repair before it celebrated its jubilee. At Castle Camps the work was becoming increasingly difficult though the pastor has not lost heart after 24 years in the ministry. Chrishall congregations are steadily strengthening, Gt Eversden had celebrated the wedding of the minister and young people continued to meet at the Nixon Hall. The most difficult station was Stetchworth where the spiritual indifference of the people was a great obstacle to progress

1919 06 18

Big gathering of mothers – About 400 members of the Mothers Union in the Camps Rural Deanery assembled at Balsham Rectory. They hailed from Whittlesford, Sawston, Pampisford, Ickleton, Duxford, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton, Bartlow and Balsham. They partook of tea, and were addressed by the Bishop of Ely and Mrs. Eager, from the Central Mothers' Union, London. 19 06 18

1919 09 10

Tried to Square a Constable. A Castle Camps man, stated to be a dealer, was summoned at Linton court for driving a horse and cart without a light on August 20. He pleaded guilty. A constable stated that when he accosted the defendant, the latter tried to square him. The chairman stated that owing to the defendant's behaviour to the constable he would be fined £1 19 09 10

1920

1920 03 10

County licenses: Linton: Axe & Saw; Horseheath: Montford Arms, Castle Camps: George & Dragon referred – 20 03 10b

1920 07 10

Public houses considered for closure – Victoria, Barrington; Guilden Morden Pig & Whistle, Cherry Hinton Hopbine, Castle Camps George & Dragon, Linton Axe & Saw, King Street Boot, Chesterton High Street Indian Chief, Newnham Road Tally Ho, East Road Turnstile, Gwydir Street Dew Drop
1920 07 14

Licences refused Barrington Victorian, Guilden Morden ‘Pig & Whistle’, Castle Camps ‘George and Dragon’, Linton ‘Axe & Saw’ – 20 07 14b

1920 11 17

Licenses refused: Barrington : Victoria; Guilden Morden Pig & Whistle; Castle Camps George & Dragon; Linton Axe & Saw – 20 11 17c

1921 03 02

Castle Camps war memorial unveiling – 21 03 02d

1927 09 15

The question of water supply was becoming more and more serious, Linton RDC was told. In one side of the district there was no water. The ponds were all very low, and the people were drinking out of roadside drains water which was impregnated with decayed vegetable matter. There was no even water enough for cleanliness, and something must be done. But the other side was plentifully supplied. Sawston people would object to paying for Horseheath or Castle Camps. The question was whether they should go on digging wells or whether it was possible to take any other measure which would be more perfect or less expensive

1930

1933 01 24

The 300-year-old Cock Inn at Castle Camps was practically destroyed after the roof caught fire near the chimney stack. Although there was a good supply of water from a pond it was impossible to save much of the building. Of the nine rooms only a kitchen and pantry remain. 33 01 24

1933 11 14

When excavating a Saxon burial ground near Castle Camps three skeletons were removed from the graves and placed in crates to be taken to Cambridge. But they were deliberately smashed up overnight. Some form of superstition must have been responsible for this action, said T.C. Lethbridge, “it is too much to explain it as mere mischief”. In some graves he had found tiny pots containing face cream or pomade. 33 11 14

1934 09 06

At Castle Camps the population of 505 people depended on a deep well pump and it was very difficult to get water. It took about 170 turns to obtain two gallons from the pump and it was the only drinking water available. The situation has become worse recently because a lot of the shallow wells had dried up. The Parish Council suggested the District Council arrange a water cart three times a week. But they would charge a penny a bucket. 34 09 06

1937 05 22

A wages tribunal was told that agriculture in the Isle of Ely was totally different from Cambridgeshire; the soil was more productive, the crops were apt to be heavier, the type of agriculture was more profitable. And yet there was a uniformed rate of wages for workers in both areas. Budgets were considered of families from Castle Camps, Swavesey and March where the father of a family of five earned only 35s 6d a week clear; he’d had had no Sunday suit or boots for six years
37 05 22 & a

1938 07 30

Castle Camps fire, four houses involved – 38 07 30

1938 09 05

Mr & Mrs Albert Wenham were married at Castle Camps church in September 1888. He is a native of the village but his bride was born in Helions Bumpstead. They have a family of nine – three sons and six daughters - and 16 grandchildren. He recalled when they had eight children, not one old enough to be at work and his wages as a horse keeper were just fourteen shillings a week. Mrs Wenham then did her share by taking in sewing work for Messrs Gurteen's factory at Haverhill, following the example of a large number of women. 38 09 05a

1940

1942 11 27

Market Banns at Linton. Linton market, 10 miles from Cambridge, is said to have been a favourite place for banns and even marriages of East Cambs couples (writes Watchman). Here, for example, is one of the entries in the Linton parish records - "10 January, 1656. Contract published between Richard Lofts, of Abington Parva, widower, and Mary Tilbrooke, of Castle Camps, widow, in this market Three Several Days, this being the last day of 'publishing.' At the Restoration (1660), when all Acts of the Long Parliament passed after the trouble with the King were expunged from the Statute Book, the children born of these marriages were rendered illegitimate, but later on a special Act was passed to legitimise them.

1944 09 15

Presentation to Minister. The Rev. Wilfred Monk, who had been Minister at the Congregational Church (Castle Camps) since January, 1938, closed his ministry on Sunday, August 27, having accepted a call to be minister of the church at Wethersfield, Essex. At the close of the evening service, Mr. Monk was presented with a wallet of Treasury notes as a token of appreciation and esteem from the members of the church and congregation.

1947 10 06

Castle Camps dump, p5

1950

1953 05 06

For the past 27 years one of the very active of the militant suffragettes has been living quietly at Castle Camps and has written a book about her experiences in those bygone days called 'Laugh a defiance'. Miss Mary Richardson slashed the famous Rokeby Venus in the National Gallery as a protest against the further imprisonment of their leader Mrs Pankhurst, planted a bomb which practically demolished a new railway station at Birmingham and set fire to a big, uninhabited country house. She served many sentences in Holloway. Yet when she came to settle at Castle Camps & decided to keep ducks 'to provide birds for the tables of the Cambridge colleges', her heart failed her when it came to killing them. In the end there were over three hundred birds.

1953 09 03

Two-and-a-half-tons of freshly-picked Victoria plums were destroyed when a fruit lorry from Chiver's farm at Hazelstub, Haverhill, came into collision with a coal waggon from the Haverhill depot of Moys Ltd. The impact of the crash, near Castle Camps caused the coal waggon's petrol tank to explode, sending both vehicles up in flames. Both drivers scrambled clear in time to escape being burnt. The plums were being taken to the Histon jam-making factory, having been picked that morning.

1955 12 06

Four modern bungalows have been erected at Castle Camps for use as almshouses. It is a story of inspiration and generosity which had brought as much happiness to the four aged people who are now comfortably settled to spend the eventide of their lives as it has to the benefactor. Tom Haylock of Moat Farm, a Methodist local preacher and chairman of the parish council built them on a piece of his

meadow and said he had always promised himself to do something for the aged people of the village.
55 12 06

1957 05 13

Shudy Camps' bright clean, one-roomed school, which houses 20 children, means a lot to the inhabitants. They have a good teacher in Doris Edwards but no mains water supply. Now it may close with the pupils sent to Castle Camps. But with four new council houses and two more being built there will be more children. In these modern days you must have community spirit. Take the school away and what focal point is left? Just the church and the pub. 57 05 13 &a -b

1959 06 25

Castle Camps water shortage – 59 06 25a

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1960 05 13

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They included Castle Camps, Shudy Camps – 60 05 13 & a CIP

1963 06 01

Castle Camps School was packed as over 100 villagers turned up to support the newly-formed Castle Camps and Shudy Camps Residents Association. It was formed so they could air grievances over the way South Cambs RDC used every trick to suppress publication of controversial details about proper and adequate drainage. Bartlow Road council houses have to empty their sewage into an open ditch which could lead to paratyphoid. The parish council chairman should resign. 63 06 01a

1963 06 11

Castle Camps school swimming pool opens – 63 06 11

1963 07 09

Castle Camps residents have written to the Minister of Housing over sanitary arrangements for the village. They say the untapped sewer and diversion of sink waste from council houses contravenes the byelaws and SCRDC have added to the problems 63 07 09a

1963 07 27

Sixty Castle Camps villagers turned out to dig up two council house soakaways which they claim are illegal and contravene bye-laws. They run into an open ditch running through the grass in front of the houses and are dangerous to children. Three weeks ago another soakaway in the garden of a house on Bartlow Road was dug up and South Cambs RDC warned villagers they would be liable for prosecution. A Doctor says "They are shocking and should be dispensed with as soon as possible" 63 07 27

1963 08 01

Castle Camps sewage protest rejected – 63 08 01a

1963 09 26

Castle Camps villagers have won their fight for improved drainage systems for eight council houses in Bartlow Road. They have campaigned for several months and even dug up a number of council-installed soakaways which they claimed were 'illegal'. Now an investigation into the alleged insanitary conditions has recommended a combined drain at the rear of the houses into which sink wastes can be discharged. The existing drains will then be disconnected and stopped up 63 09 26

1970

1976 03 19

Six primary schools in Cambridgeshire villages may have to close next year. Schools at Wood Ditton, Kirtling, Chippenham, Horseheath, Quy and Madingley have been shortlisted from a number of schools with less than 75 pupils which the county council feels may no longer be viable for educational or economic reasons. Other schools with few pupils include Ashley (30 pupils), Black Horse Drove (40), Castle Camps (55), Dullingham (30) and Stuntney (40)

1980

1985 04 24

Horseheath appears to be a village in decline. In the past year the tiny primary school closed despite a long campaign to save it by the parish council. The 25 children were transferred to Castle Camps. Now the Red Lion pub and the Chequers at nearby Streetly End have shut up because people could not afford to stay out drinking all evening. But Horseheath is hitting back. Last month residents completed the purchase of the school building for use as a village hall, showing their strength of commitment to the community 85 04 24

1989 08 02

Horseheath's new village sign was presented by Sir Arthur Marshall and dedicated by the Bishop of Ely in memory of his wife, Lady Rosemary Marshall. Children from Castle Camps school have written stories about 20th century life which have been buried in a time capsule underneath the sign which depicts the 1834 Derby winner, bred and trained at Horseheath Lodge.. Four windows in the 14th century church have also been rebuilt in memory of Lady Marshall, farmer Jack Webb and Thomas Sutton. 89 08 02